

Gunmen kidnap 3 Germans

SIDON (Agencies) — Gunmen kidnapped four West Germans in Sidon Tuesday, three of them for the second time this month, but freed one woman an hour later, security sources and witnesses said. They said Petra Schnitzer, 26, was released southeast of Sidon at the headquarters of the Islamic grouping, a coalition of pro-Iranian fundamentalists. Witnesses said 10 gunmen seized Schnitzer, Heinrich Striebig, 48, Marcus Quint, 24, and an unidentified colleague from the West German Asma Humanitas Relief Agency (AHRRA) as they drove through Sidon. West German Ambassador Wolfgang Gotthaus could not be reached for comment. On May 4, Striebig, a 48-year-old administrator, and Schnitzer, a 26-year-old nurse were grabbed along with Quint by five unidentified gunmen on Sidon's southern edge. Police could not confirm reports that the third victim of Tuesday's abduction was Quint, freed from 10 days in captivity Sunday. No one claimed responsibility for the earlier abductions. Amal militia leader Nahib Berri brought Quint back to the organization's headquarters Sunday. He refused to identify the kidnappers.

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Sultan Qaboos on three-day visit to Jordan King, Omani leader discuss Arab, international issues

AMMAN (J.T.) — Their Majesties King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos Ibn Sa'id of Oman held talks Tuesday on Arab and international issues and voiced satisfaction with Jordanian-Omani relations and expressed interest in further enhancing and developing them.

Sultan Qaboos, who arrived here earlier in the day on a three-day visit, pledged Oman's support for Jordan and expressed pride in and appreciation of Jordan's positive role on the pan-Arab scene and in serving pan-Arab causes.

King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos stressed their interest in making the May 23-24 extraordinary Arab summit in Casablanca a success and expressed hope that the summit would tackle all Arab issues, including the Palestinian question.

Both leaders voiced support for the Palestinian people's struggle for freedom and independence.

Military takes to Addis Ababa streets

ADDIS ABABA (Agencies) — Air force jets and helicopter gunships swept over the capital of war-torn Ethiopia Tuesday as army tanks and armoured cars ringed key government buildings in an apparent dispute within the military high command.

A civilian employee inside the Ministry of Defence, where shooting broke out in late afternoon, told the Associated Press by telephone the trouble stemmed "from an apparent division" among top officers.

The employee, who spoke only on condition that he not be identified, said a measure of calm had returned by mid evening and the two sides were talking within the ministry in an attempt to resolve the differences.

Civilian and military employees were not allowed to leave the building after the trouble erupted and it was ringed by tanks, armoured cars and troops in what appeared to be defensive positions.

The trouble broke out several hours after President Mengistu Haile Mariam left Addis Ababa for a previously unannounced visit to East Germany. Sources said he took his family with him.

"I don't know what we've got, quite frankly," said a spokesman for the U.S. embassy. "We've got reports of some shooting in the city, but not a great deal of it."

"I cannot comment on what's going on," said Allen Collins, head of chancery in the British embassy. "We are trying to make our own assessment and any comment would be premature."

Government sources, speaking only on condition of anonymity, said shooting broke out inside the Defence Ministry at about 4 p.m. (1300 GMT) just as employees were about to end their day. It could not be determined if there were any casualties.

Almost immediately, two air force MiG jet fighters began buzzing the city repeatedly and tanks, armoured personnel carriers and troops surrounded the ministry.

Later, tanks, armoured cars and soldiers took up positions outside other key government buildings, including the presidential palace, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Information, which houses the government broadcasting station.

Israelis clamp down on workers from Gaza Strip

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli army, in an unprecedented move, ordered Palestinians from the Gaza Strip to leave Israel and return home Tuesday while troops made mass arrests in raids on several West Bank villages.

Sources said the iron-fist clampdown was intended to reassert army control two days after the cabinet adopted an initiative for elections in the occupied areas.

Troops also detained a leading Palestinian activist hours before he was to meet a senior U.S. State Department official.

Hundreds of Palestinians queued at the checkpoint to the crowded Gaza Strip, whose

650,000 residents were confined to their houses under an indefinite curfew imposed late Monday.

Police said they would arrest Gazans found in Israel and take them to the checkpoint. Israeli radio broadcast appeals for employers to send home their workers from Gaza.

More than 60,000 Palestinians from the Gaza Strip work daily in Israel.

Under Israeli law, Palestinians from Gaza and the West Bank are not allowed to stay in Israel overnight, but the law is widely skirted by workers who sleep in dormitories or their places of work.

In occupied Jerusalem, witness

ses reported seeing police checking the identities of Palestinians at major intersections and putting those from Gaza in police vehicles for transport back.

At the Erez crossing into the Gaza Strip, AP photographer Max Nash said hundreds of Palestinian workers were sitting on the ground under army guard.

He said most were brought to the area in Israeli taxis and then taken into Gaza to their homes by army trucks.

Also Tuesday, a Palestinian died of gunshot wounds sustained earlier in the week in a shootout with police. The death of Ali Mahmoud Muhammad Jabber, 23, raised to 480 the number of Palestinians killed in the uprising.

Israel pursues election plan despite Palestinian rejection

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli leaders Tuesday shrugged off Palestinian rejection of a plan for elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and urged Palestinians to take part in the elections.

Five leading Palestinians accused Israel of trying to sabotage their peace efforts by arresting a colleague before they met visiting U.S. State Department official Dennis Ross.

Ghassan Al Khatib, a 37-year-old cultural studies professor at Birzeit University in the occupied West Bank, was taken by troops and secret police from his home

in Ramallah at 2 a.m. — hours before he was to have met Ross, his family said.

"We protested this action on the part of the Israeli government. We said that this was an attempt in fact to sabotage the meeting," Sari Nusseibeh, a leading nationalist activist said after the meeting.

"We insisted in any case on carrying on our meeting and we hope that the American delegation will present our protest to the Israeli government concerning the arrest," Nusseibeh.

It was unclear whether Khatib, regarded as close to the Palestine

Communist Party, was detained to try to disrupt the U.S. dialogue with Palestinian figures.

U.S. officials invited Khatib and the five other Palestinians to meet Ross, the State Department policy planning director, to discuss the Israeli proposal for elections in the occupied areas to choose peace negotiators.

Nusseibeh said Palestinians favoured democratic polls but rejected Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's election proposal because it failed to ensure Palestinian statehood or a role for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

Deng, Gorbachev formalise new era amid clamour

PEKING (Agencies) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and China's Deng Xiaoping normalised relations between the two communist states Tuesday, while outside their meeting hall tens of thousands of students and supporters chanted for democratic reform.

"We can take this opportunity to publicly announce the normalisation of Sino-Soviet relations," Deng said to applause from both Soviet and Chinese participants in the meeting.

The Deng-Gorbachev summit, in the red-carpeted eastern hall of the Great Hall of the People, brought together leaders of the two countries for the first time since a frosty encounter between Nikita Khrushchev and Mao Tse-Tung in 1959.

Relations since then have been marred by ideological rivalry, a 1969 border war, a sharp decline in economic and cultural contacts and strong Chinese opposition to Soviet actions in Afghanistan and Cambodia.

Deng also said the summit sig-

nified the normalisation of suspended relations between the communist parties of the two nations.

But Chinese leaders were clearly distracted from the long-planned diplomatic triumph by events at home that have left the ruling Communist Party floundering and vulnerable.

For the second straight day Tuesday, Chinese authorities were forced into the humiliating position of having to change venues for Gorbachev's meetings because students clamouring for democratic reform had occupied Tiananmen Square and surrounded the adjacent Great Hall.

"China needs very much a peaceful environment externally and a stable environment internally. Only thus can we accomplish" modernisation, a Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted Premier Li Peng as telling Gorbachev.

"We do not think that liberty, democracy and human rights are a patent of capitalist countries," Li was quoted as saying, adding.

that "China is prepared to perfect these aspects in its pursuit of political reform."

Students who have staged demonstrations, class boycotts and hunger strikes for the past month have accused the Chinese government of dragging its feet on political reform. Many have cited Gorbachev and his policy of glasnost as a model for China.

In a later meeting, Communist Party General Secretary Zhao Ziyang launched into an unusual defence of Deng, saying the party still needs his "wisdom and experience."

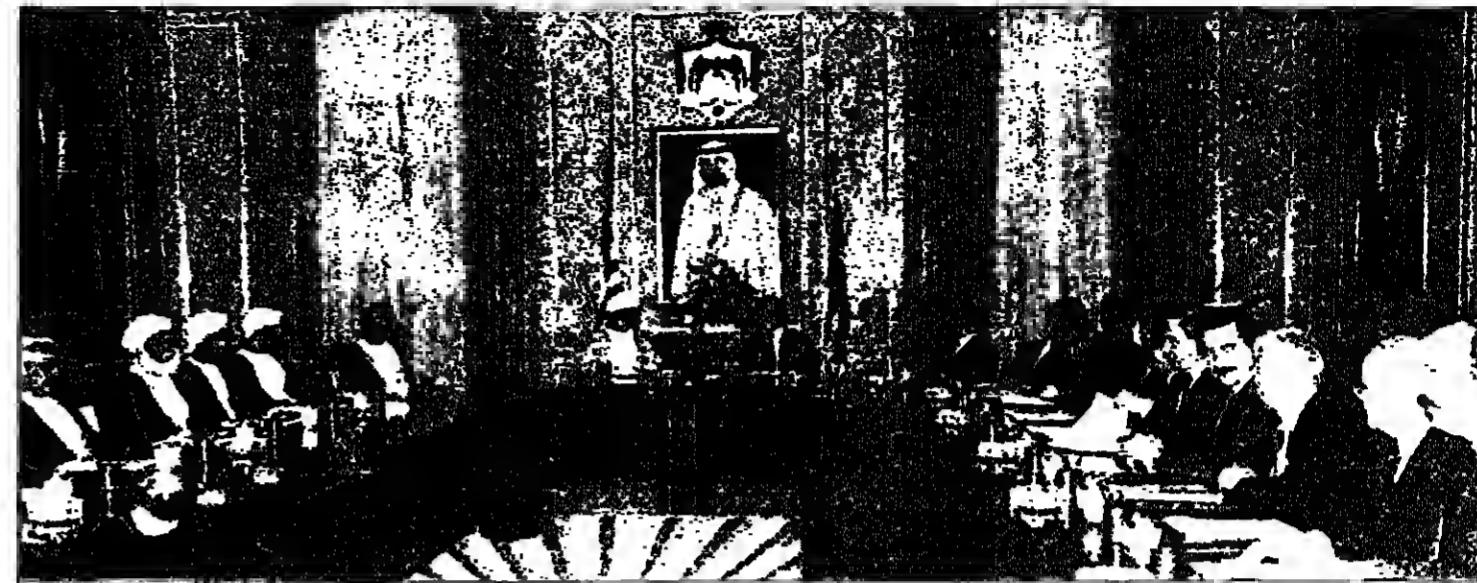
A handshake between Gorbachev and Deng ended the rift that shook the communist world and Deng declared: "End the past and open up the future."

That sentiment, with different goals, was echoed by thousands outside the Great Hall where the two leaders were meeting.

The crowds were drawn to the vast Tiananmen Square where a hunger strike, begun Saturday by about 2,000 students, has grown into huge protests.

Alfonsin rejects cabinet resignation

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine President Raúl Alfonsin Tuesday rejected the resignations tendered by his cabinet after opposition Peronists trounced his Radical Party in Sunday's general elections, a presidential spokesman said. Spokesman José Ignacio López said Alfonsin told Interior Minister Enrique Nosiglia to get in touch with President-elect Carlos Menem to begin talks on the seven-month transition period before the Peronist leader takes office Dec. 10. "The president thanked the ministers for their gesture and asked them to carry on working and giving their valuable services," López said. Thirteen years after their last government was toppled by a military coup, Menem led the Peronists to a crushing victory, winning 49.2 per cent of the votes to 36.9 per cent for Radical contender Eduardo Angeloz. Only days before the polls Argentina was put on the brink of hyper-inflation, after a series of emergency measures taken by Alfonsin's administration this year backfired.



Their Majesties King Hussein and Sultan Qaboos Ibn Said of Oman Tuesday chair a meeting attended by senior officials from both sides (Photo by Yousef Al 'Allan)

Top Lebanese mufti assassinated

King denounces killing, voices deep regret

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday denounced the assassination of Sheikh Hassan Khaled, mufti of Lebanon, and voiced deep regret over the death.

In a cable he sent to acting Lebanese Premier Salim Al Hoss, the King voiced deep regret over the killing of Sheikh Khaled: "It is with deep sorrow and grief that we received the tragic news of the assassination of Sheikh Hassan Khaled at the hands of people who have no fear for God and no mercy for Lebanon nor for its dedicated and faithful figures. While denouncing this ugly crime, we share with you the deep sadness and grief over the loss of a Muslim scholar and spiritual leader and pray to God to enable the sister Arab country to overcome its ordeal and to rebuild its national unity and put an end to the ongoing bloodshed," the King said. He called on Hoss to convey his condolences to the family and friends of Sheikh Khaled.

restraint, stressing that all problems could be solved through dialogue. He also had declared support for Arab League efforts to enforce a ceasefire.

Syria accused Lebanese army commander Michel Aoun of responsibility for the carbomb.

Syria's news agency SANA also quoted President Hafez Al Assad as saying the death of Sheikh Khaled was a blow to efforts in Lebanon.

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S. Arabia to consider European arms deals

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabian Defence Minister Prince Sultan will visit five European countries this month for possible arms purchases. Gulf-based diplomats said.

They said his tour of Austria, Greece, the Netherlands, France and Britain in the second half of May would also serve as a warning to the United States that Riyadh could seek more European-made weapons if Congress again cut the kingdom off from American arms.

Saudi Arabia is in the market for tanks, armoured vehicles and warships. Prince Sultan might also look at fighter jets in Europe, although military experts said Riyadh wanted to replace about 100 ageing Northrop F-5s with other U.S.-made planes.

The U.S. administration has notified Congress it intends this year to sell Riyadh 315 M1A1 Abrams tanks. General Dynamics sent two of the tanks for his trip, he might revive talks on plans to acquire submarines.

The proposed purchase was put on hold, diplomatic sources said, after Saudi Arabia had contacted several West European manufacturers to explore the possibility of buying submarines.

Saudi paper blasts Iran in war of words over Haj

RIYADH (Agencies) — A Saudi Arabian newspaper, ending a seven-month lull in anti-Iranian invective, slammed Tehran Tuesday over signs that it will boycott the annual Haj pilgrimage to Mecca.

"Teheran's behaviour indicates that its rulers seem to have learned no lesson from the past," Al Nadwa paper said. "They insist on committing the same errors and ignoring Islamic and Saudi efforts to resolve inter-Muslim differences."

Iran has complained about restrictions on the July Haj to Mecca and Medina, including a quota of 45,000 Iranian pilgrims.

Gulf-based diplomats say Iran, which wants to send 150,000 pil-



Prince Sultan

European tank.

"Continued unwillingness to approve Saudi arms sales requests is having lasting consequences," General H. Norman Schwarzkopf, commander of the U.S. Central Command which includes the Gulf, told the Senate Armed Services committee last month.

The United States has lost tens of billions of dollars in exports as well as associated domestic jobs," the general added, in reference to Saudi Arabia's \$20-billion arms deal with Britain last year after it was denied U.S. arms.

Though Prince Sultan, a younger brother of King Fahd, is only expected to make minor deals on his trip, he might revive talks on plans to acquire submarines.

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Diplomats said the PLO membership controversy would hardly help efforts by M'bow's successor, Federico Mayor, to persuade the U.S. to rejoin and once again contribute its 25 per cent share of UNESCO's budget.

While he was carrying out programmes inherited from M'bow, Mayor could only make declarations of intent. Now he will be judged by what he delivers," one diplomat said.

Also before the board is Mayor's schedule of priorities up to 1986 and his plan for a reform of UNESCO's bureaucracy, a step urged by Britain before it quit in 1986.

PLO presses drive to join U.N. agencies

PARIS (R) — The State of Palestine this week renews its crusade for international recognition by seeking membership of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

After the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) failed last week to gain admission to another U.N. agency, the World Health Organisation (WHO), seven mainly Islamic states have put the issue before Wednesday's meeting of UNESCO's executive board.

The WHO thwarted the PLO's first bid for full membership of a U.N. agency as delegates to its annual governing council, anxious to avert a clash with the United States, voted to defer a decision for a year.

The U.S. had said it would cut off annual contributions of more than \$90 million if the PLO, representing the State of Palestine declared last November, were made a member.

The United States left UNESCO in 1985 after clashes with former Director General Ahmed-Mahar M'bow.

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ILO urges action in occupied lands

GENEVA (AP) — The International Labour Organisation (ILO) warned Tuesday that tension in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would continue to grow unless the Israeli government takes swift action to halt an economic decline in these lands.

An ILO report said that since the start of the Palestinian uprising, living standards have dropped by 50 per cent, according to some observers, and that Israeli authorities cite a 30 per cent decline in economic activity.

The situation, the report said, led the Arab population of the occupied territories to organise a "resistance and survival economy" based on return to family agriculture. An ILO fact-finding team was told by residents that military authorities "seize any excuse to undermine this subsistence economy."

The report, compiled for next month's annual conference of the ILO, said the material deprivation and lack of social and economic progress has caused "despondency... aggravated by the frustration of having no prospect of a more just and decent life."

It said the three-member ILO mission that visited the areas last February are "convinced that the continuing deterioration of the economic situation... can only increase tension and hardened positions" and called for effective measures as soon as possible to halt the decline.

The report said the trade union situation in the occupied territories "continues to be a matter of extreme concern." It said that union rights may be temporarily restricted for serious reasons involving a country's security.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Bahrain to ease visa restrictions

KUWAIT (R) — Bahrain will start granting seven-day visas to foreigners living in the Gulf in order to promote tourism, Bahraini Prime Minister Sheikh Khalifa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa was quoted Tuesday as saying. "We have already ordered this, but for certain reasons implementation was delayed for a while," he told Kuwait's Al Seyassah newspaper. He said foreign residents in Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries arriving at Bahrain airport would be given seven-day visas renewable by hotels. Citizens of the GCC can enter Bahrain without visas but most foreigners had needed to get them outside the country. Sheikh Hamad said the change was designed to encourage tourism, boost the hotel industry, encourage commerce and strengthen Bahrain's position as a regional financial centre.

Libya invites British MP for talks

LONDON (R) — A British member of parliament said Monday Libyan authorities had invited him for talks in Beirut about the release of British hostages there. Opposition Labour parliamentarian Ron Brown made public a letter from the Libyan government to him, saying Tripoli would "do anything you recommend to secure the release of individuals held hostage." The letter expressed opposition to terrorism, and continued: "We invite you to visit Beirut to discuss our proposals with our local representative." Brown has previously tried to mediate on behalf of hostages in the Middle East. During a visit to Libya last September, he asked Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi to use Tripoli's influence on Iran to secure the release of British captives in Beirut.

Kuwaiti travellers warned

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait Monday issued a list of directives to its citizens urging them to look out for swindlers while on summer holidays abroad. The 20-point list issued by the Foreign Ministry told citizens not to carry large sums of money or jewellery and use credit cards as much as possible. The directives, reported by the Kuwait News Agency, also urged Kuwaitis not to leave shopping bags unattended, to consult a lawyer before signing any legal documents and keep an eye out for fake gems and products.

Kurdish rebels kidnap 20 villagers

DIYARBAKIR, Turkey (R) — Kurdish rebels kidnapped 20 villagers and set fire to cars with flame-throwers in raids in southeast Turkey, security sources said Tuesday. They said 40 rebels of the Marxist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) led the villagers away at gunpoint in Siirt province Monday night. They clashed briefly with troops trying to mount a rescue operation. At the same time, a second band of PKK rebels attacked cars with guns and flame-throwers in Sırnak town, 30 kilometres from the Iraqi border, and then escaped. The PKK has in the past abducted young men to try to recruit them as fighters in its guerrilla war for autonomy for Turkey's estimated eight million Kurds. More than 1,300 people have been killed since the PKK launched the war in 1984.

Armitage meets senior Egyptian officials

CAIRO (AP) — The U.S. under-secretary of defence arrived Tuesday and immediately met with President Hosni Mubarak on military cooperation and bilateral relations, the Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported. The agency said Richard Armitage met separately with Yousef Sabri Abu Taleb, Egypt's defence minister. Armitage is in Cairo as head of a delegation to the annual meeting of the American-Egyptian military coordination committee.

Cairo court convicts 7 in spy case

CAIRO (R) — An Egyptian court has sentenced three Libyans and four Egyptians on charges of spying and plotting to overthrow the Cairo government. The three Libyans, tried in their absence and identified as officers in the intelligence service, were jailed for life and fined 5,000 Egyptian pounds (\$2,000) each. They were named as Al Hadi Mohammad Khidr, Yousef Abu Helala and Mohammad Saad. The Libyans were accused of recruiting the four Egyptians in September 1981 and training them to blow up government buildings inside Egypt to foment trouble. The Egyptians were arrested in January 1987 before any sabotage was attempted. Businessman Mahmoud Abdal Shafiq was jailed for 10 years, schoolteacher Hassan Othman Taha for two years and the other two for a year each. Each was fined 1,000 pounds (\$400).

Saudi justice minister resigns

RIYADH (AP) — Saudi Arabia's minister of justice, Ibrahim Ibn Mohammad Al Sheik, resigned from his post for health reasons, according to a royal decree late Monday. The minister will be succeeded by Mohammad Ibn Ibrahim Ibn Jubir who has been named acting minister of justice in addition to his cabinet-level post of chairman of the grievances court, the decree said. The decree, distributed by the Saudi Press Agency, said King Fahd accepted the resignation at Sheik's request, and expressed his thanks and appreciation to the outgoing minister for his dedicated services. Sheik has been reported in bad health in recent years, said officials who know him.

David Waite comforts family of missing Briton

LONDON (AP) — The brother of missing Church of England envoy Terry Waite lent support Tuesday to relatives of an elderly British man feared kidnapped in Beirut. David Waite, whose brother disappeared more than two years ago in the strife-torn city, met relatives of Jack Mann on a television show and told them that talking helps. "Just to be able to have close friends that you can talk through the situation with — I think you will find this great help," he told the stepdaughter and brother-in-law of Mann, who disappeared Friday. Jennifer Mitchell and Glynn Pritchard appeared on the breakfast-time commercial station TV-AM after asking to meet others in the same situation. Mann, whose wife Sunny remains in Beirut, left his apartment Friday to go to the bank but never returned. Police found his car parked in a west Beirut street, and a group calling itself the Cells of Armed Struggle claimed it abducted him.



Afghan government soldiers patrol Kabul streets (Sygma photo)

Afghan government defies predictions of collapse

By Nasser Shirkhani
Reuters

KABUL — When the last Soviet soldier beaded home from Afghanistan three months ago, Mujahedeen rebels and their Western allies rubbed their hands and predicted a swift march to power in Kabul for the guerrillas.

The Afghan government is like a building without girders. Most diplomats in Kabul say it could fall any time between now and July," said Charge d'Affaires John Glassman as he removed the stars and stripes from the U.S. embassy.

He then bade farewell to the small Afghan capital before the final Soviet pullout Feb. 15. The entire Western diplomatic corps packed up and followed him, citing security reasons in a city which they thought would soon become the Mujahedeen capital.

But the pro-Soviet government of President Najibullah has proved a tough foe to fight to the bitter end and shows no sign of falling.

For the guerrillas, victory has been elusive. They have found obstacles on the road to Kabul even without the Soviet troops who had helped prop up the government since 1979.

They set up a rival government and launched an offensive against the eastern city of Jalalabad in the hope of capturing it as a provisional capital within a short time of the Soviet pullout.

They took heart from initial gains but government troops, relying on air power, beat off the onslaught.

The rebels blundered by changing from guerrilla warfare to a conventional frontal attack without arranging for a unified command to direct their operations.

Kabul, the key to power, has itself been quiet despite the predictions of a security breakdown and the occasional rocket attacks from surrounding mountains providing sanctuary to the rebels. The rockets have failed to disrupt life and people pay them scant attention.

Few troops patrol the teeming streets of a capital whose

largely Persian-speaking population is wary of the prospect of living under a government of predominantly Pashto-speaking

Mujahedeen.

Religious and linguistic differences have sapped whatever appetite there might have been for an uprising in support of the rebels. The most ardent opponents of the government have either left or simply been si-

lenced.

Most residents cherish the idea of peace after 10 years of war which has claimed more than one million casualties and sent up to five million people to seek refuge in neighbouring Pakistan and Iran.

Najibullah has exploited the war weariness, offering to share power with the Mujahedeen and even pledging to step down if it brought peace to Afghanistan.

The offer was rejected by the Mujahedeen, who hold his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) responsible for all the misery of the war but it seems to appeal to the man-in-the-street.

"Now that blasphemy has left our country, the Afghans should sit down and find a solution," said a Kabul resident, referring to the Soviet forces.

Almost all Afghans, including some officials, resented the Soviet presence. But that element of unity in disarray has now disappeared and differences have come to the fore.

"I hope the war near Jalalabad will continue for the next 10 years because it only affects Sunnis who have suppressed us all along," said a Shiite Muslim Hazara.

The Hazaras support the Persian-speaking Tajiks in seeking to break the traditional hold of the Pashtuns on power.

The PDPA has itself suffered from ethnic and linguistic problems, with the moderate Parchamis and Khalqis fighting for supremacy.

The two factions have buried their differences and closed ranks behind Parchamis Najibullah in the face of the rebel threat. To ensure loyalty from

the army, the government picked ideologically-committed troops to defend Jalalabad and Kabul.

The army says it has emerged stronger since the Soviet withdrawal and senses no real threat from the Mujahedeen.

"We used to rely on Soviet troops. Now we have no choice but to stand on our feet and fight to the end to avoid defeat," said General Ulumi, chief of the National Defence

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Council.

More than half the soldiers fighting the Mujahedeen are PDPA members for whom defeat would mean death.

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1st blind man sits MA oral

IRBID (J.T.) — A panel of professors from Yarmouk University Tuesday discussed a thesis by a blind Jordanian student in Arabic language for which he hopes to obtain a Masters degree. The post graduate student, Ghaleb Freihat, is the first blind student to submit a thesis for a post graduate degree at any of the Jordanian universities according to a university spokesman. The spokesman said that the thesis which is in five chapters tackles contemporary scientific and technical terms in the Arabic language. The student submitted proposals for the creation of a specialised Arab language school in charge of scientific terms. Among those present at the panel discussion were Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ad Ibn Zaid, who is president of the Jordanian Friends of the Blind Society, University President Mohammad Hanan and a large group of deans from Jordanian universities.

Soviet team arrives

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Soviet Academy of Sciences (SAS), headed by its Deputy Director General Bogatikov Oleg Alekseevich, arrived in Amman Tuesday on a week-long visit to Jordan upon an invitation by the Higher Council of Science and Technology (HCST). The delegation will meet with senior officials from the HCST and will tour a number of scientific research institutions, universities and leading industrial institutions.

The delegation will also conclude a scientific and technical cooperation agreement with the HCST and will draft protocols of cooperation between the SAS and the HCST in the fields of science and technology, renewed energy and environmental protection.

7 Arab countries to establish regional informatics network

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and six other Arab countries have agreed on establishing a regional informatics network which will launch cooperation with similar networks to be established in the Maghreb Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council countries.

The announcement was made by Dr. Yousef Nuseir Tuesday upon the conclusion of a three-day sub-regional meeting at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) to discuss the prospects of such network that would benefit Arab countries in scientific and technological fields.

The delegates reviewed six working papers on the matter and a general report on the use of computers in the Arab World. Nuseir who is director of the RSS's computer department said that a working paper will be

ARABIC FESTIVAL: The Jordan Academy of Arabic has opened its seventh cultural festival, which is expected to last until June 10. The festival includes seminars and lectures dealing with educational, health, cultural and scientific topics and the process of Arabising foreign terms used in agriculture and other sciences. Scholars and intellectuals from Egypt, Syria and Jordan will deliver lectures (Petra).



LATEST TECHNOLOGIES: A scientific seminar was held at the Amman Marriott Hotel Wednesday in which Mr. Aamir Al Sayed, the clinical products specialist for Kodak Near East Inc., introduced the latest developments in the dry chemistry technology represented by Kodak Ektachem blood analysers and also recent advances in the field of biological diagnostics represented by the sure cell test kits which are self-testing kits for pregnancy, strep, chlamydia, herpes, AIDS and gonorrhoea. Murad Technical & Trading Est., Kodak dealers in Jordan hosted the seminar (J.T.).

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ A plastic art exhibition by Mohammad Bolis and Munira Tumislyeh at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ The May art exhibition at Al Wasiti Art Gallery, Plaza Hotel.
- ★ An exhibition of ceramics and silk flowers entitled "Amman Embedded in the Heart" by Sana' Al Asir at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ An art exhibition by Aziz Ammouda at the Gallery Hall, Jabal Lweibdeh.
- ★ An exhibition entitled "Grand Projects for the State: 1979-1989" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ An exhibition of chemical industries and scientific experiments at Umm Al Amara Secondary School, Irbid.
- ★ A photography exhibition by British photographer and writer Jane Taylor in which 41 serial photographs of various places in Jordan are on display at Alia Gallery.

FILMS

- ★ A French film entitled "Les Trois Courroies du Matelot" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ A programme entitled "Archaeology on Screen" in which three videos are shown under the titles: "Life and Death in Ancient Egypt," "The Father of Pots: Sir Flinders Petrie" and "Looking at Historic Sites," at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

Jordan pays tribute to ICO

Caritas president ends visit

AMMAN (Petra, J.T.) — President of the International Caritas Organisation (ICO) Cardinal Alexandre do Nascimento Tuesday wound up a four-day visit to Jordan and left for home.

The cardinal held talks with Jordanian officials on the implementation of socio-economic projects in the country with help from ICO, and inspected a number of Caritas centres around the Kingdom. One of the cardinal's meetings was with Mohammad Suqur, the Ministry of Social Development's secretary general who paid tribute to ICO for its philanthropic activities around

the world in general and its assistance to Jordan in particular.

The ministry maintains strong ties of cooperation with ICO in implementing different projects benefiting people in rural and urban regions of Jordan. Suqur noted.

The cardinal said that the ICO aims at helping the needy and helping to solve socio-economic problems around the world through its contributions to various projects.

He expressed Caritas's appreciation to the Ministry of Social Development for facilities and cooperation to help carry out its

projects and vocational training programmes in Jordan.

According to Jordan Caritas Director Mousa Adeli, the cardinal reviewed with Jordanian officials the implementation of projects in Mafraq Governorate for which Caritas will contribute JD 187,000. Adeli said that Jordan Caritas operates handicraft and vocational training centres in Amman and a number of Jordanian towns and has contributed JD 100,000 to a project carried out by the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund to establish welfare centres in Madaba and neighbouring towns.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salim Masaadeh (right) Tuesday receives Arab Interior Minister's Council Secretary General Akram Nashaat Ibrahim (Petra photo).

Experts discuss Mideast rural changes

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Fifteen Arab and French researchers are gathering here Wednesday to discuss the various modernisation and urbanisation trends of the Middle Eastern Arab World including the effect of migration on rural areas within the framework of economic and political developments.

The workshop, entitled "Rural Changes in the Middle East," due to open Wednesday, is sponsored by the Centre of Studies and Research in the Contemporary Middle East (CERMOC) and by the Arab Thought Forum.

In cooperation with the French Studies and Documentation Centre on Law, Economics and Social Sciences (CEDEJ) in Cairo and the French Institute for Arabic Studies (IFEAD) in Damascus.

Tours University Professor Jean Francois Troin will open the workshop on Wednesday and will present a paper entitled "From the Village to the City: Growth and Changes." The paper is a case study from Morocco. CEDEJ sociologist Francois Iretton will follow with "Socio-Economic Evolution in Upper Egypt (1961-1981)." Another French researcher, geographer Sylvie Fanchet will then present a paper on "the Nile Delta during the Infatna Era."

Two Jordanian researchers are also scheduled on Wednesday. Sociologist Suleiman Sweiss will discuss, "the Crisis of the Rural Areas in Jordan, and Yarmouk University's Sarha Ghannam will discuss, "the Political Leadership and Changes in the Rural Areas in Jordan Valley."

The remaining three papers will concentrate on "the Nubians in Egypt," by anthropologist Frederique Fogel, "a Village in Lebanon: case study," by CERMOC geographer Souha Taraf, and "Rural Changes in the Syrian Jezirah," by IFEAD historian Christian Velud.

The second day will begin with two papers on Saudi Arabia. King Abdul Aziz University Geographer Said Kahtani will present a paper entitled, "Agricultural Development in Saudi Arabia Today." An urbanist at King Fahd University in Dharan, Jacques Zahar will follow with a paper on, "Urbanisation of Al Qatif Oasis."

Ali Faour, a geographer from the Lebanese University, will then discuss, "Rural Migrations in Southern Lebanon." Three papers on Jordan, delivered by French researchers, will follow.

Lyon University ethnologist Michele Blewers will present a "Case Study: A village in Jordan; CERMOC political scientist Brigitte Curni will present a paper on "the Health

Conditions in the Rural Areas Towards an Open Society," and CERMOC ethnologist Anna Ohannessian will tackle "Social Changes in the Rural Areas in Jordan Valley."

The final paper will be presented by another IFEAD French researcher, ethnologist Olivier D'horton on "the Euphrate Bedouin: Return to Badia?"

Except for Kahtani's and Ghannam's papers, which will be presented in Arabic, all the working papers will be in French.

CERMOC has been working since 1977 towards enhancing the understanding on how Arab societies evolve, with special attention paid to the rural changes in the Arab World and the process of urbanisation and related problems. In the past 12 years, CERMOC has published 15 books on matters related to the development of Arab society.

The centre first started its work in Beirut, only to have its activities interrupted in 1983. In 1988 CERMOC was forced to cease all activities and the scientific council decided to relaunch its activities from a branch in Jordan.

CERMOC director in Jordan, Dr. Marc Lavergne, who will also be moderating the workshop, said that cooperation between French and Arab researchers is crucial, "since we all live around the Mediterranean and we should know and learn from each other."

NATIONAL NEWS BRIEFS

CONGRATULATIONS: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday congratulated King Olav V of Norway on the Norwegian constitution day and wished him, in his own name and on behalf of the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity (Petra).

GOOD WISHES: His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received a cable of good wishes from the Bahraini leader Sheikh Issa Ibn Salman Al Khalifa, who was over flying the Jordanian air space en route to Egypt. Sheikh Issa wished the King continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people every success and progress (Petra).

CONDOLENCES: His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday sent a cable of condolences to Al Hijri family in Sweida's governorate in Syria, voicing his heartfelt condolences over the death of the late Sheikh Salman Al Hijri (Petra).

CAMPAIGN: The executive committee of the National Red Crescent Society Tuesday decided to launch an anti-meningitis campaign throughout the Kingdom. The committee will distribute 10,000 vaccines to its various branches in Jordan, in addition to its hospital in Amman. The British Red Cross Society has already donated 50,000 vaccines, including 40,000 for the Ministry of Health (Petra).

SELF-EVALUATION: A week long meeting on administrative development by the use of self-evaluation methods, started Tuesday at the Industrial Development Bank's Institute of Management. The course is organised by the institute in cooperation with the Higher Administrative Studies College at the Thunderbird American University (Petra).

STATISTICS: A two week training course on financial statistics, organised by the General Statistics Department in cooperation with the Arab Institute for Training and Statistical Research, starts here Wednesday, with statisticians from a number of Arab countries participating (Petra).

COOPERATION: Means of developing information cooperation through the exchange of cultural, information and documentary programmes, between Jordan and Tunisia were the subject of discussion at a meeting held in Tunis between Jordan's Ambassador to Tunisia Talal Sataan Al Hassan and director of Tunisian Radio and Television Corporation, Saladdin Mu'awia (Petra).

CIVIL DEFENCE: Civil Defence Director General Lt.-General Khalid Tarawneh Tuesday paid an inspection tour to the civil defence centres in Aqaba district and Quwairah sub-district where he inspected progress of work and the level of services offered to citizens (Petra).

TENDER: The Mafraq Governorate work department has offered a tender to maintain the remaining part of the street linking Deir Al Kaft with Al Jibieh. The 3.5-kilometre road will cost JD 35,000 (Petra).

CAMPAIGN: The education department in Madaba district has begun a campaign to present aid to needy students in fifty elementary schools in the district at the cost of JD 2,000 (Petra).

WHEAT: Yarmouk University has embarked on a study aimed at identifying the physiological characteristics of the different kinds of wheat and the impact of dry and semi-dry weather on wheat production. The study findings will determine which kinds of wheat can be used in the various dry and semi-dry areas with a view to producing sufficient quantities of wheat and averting the desertification of land (Petra).

LABOUR UNIONS: A delegation from the Federation of the Jordanian Labour Unions, led by Abdul Halim Khaddam will participate in the 8th conference of the International Federation of the Arab Labour Unions (IFALU) due to open in Algiers Monday. The four-day conference agenda includes endorsing the resolutions and recommendations of the central council sessions, discussing a report by the general secretariat, approving the budget, amending the constitution of the IFALU, and forming the financial committee (Petra).

HAJ TALKS: Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ministry Secretary General Dr. Ahmad Hulayil will lead an official delegation on a visit to Saudi Arabia Saturday, according to Al Dustour. The visit is designed to hold talks with the concerned Saudi officials to facilitate pilgrimage. Dr. Hulayil will participate as well in the preparatory committee meetings of the Fourth Conference for the Ministers of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs (Petra).

Qatanani receives U.N. fact-finding mission

AMMAN (Petra) — A fact-finding team representing the United Nations press office had a meeting here Tuesday with the director of the Foreign Ministry's department for Palestinian affairs Dr. Ahmad Qatanani to discuss the situation in the Israeli-held Arab territories.

Qatanani briefed the visitors on the development of the Palestine problem, Israel's repressive measures practised against the Palestinian people under occupation, and Israel's human rights violations.

Qatanani also spoke about the continued closure of Arab educational institutions and the detention of thousands of Arab people during the past 18 months of the intifada.

Qatanani also outlined the main activities of his department and assistance provided to the Palestinian refugees living in Jordan.

The fact-finding mission, which arrived here Monday, on a four-day stay in the course of a Middle Eastern tour, is led by Dr. Mahmoud Al Sa'ad who said that in Jordan and talk to representatives of the Palestinians in the course of their investigations into Israel's practices.

Naour ponders cooperative

MADABA (Petra) — Heads of development units within the Naour region held a meeting Tuesday to discuss development schemes to be implemented in the second half of 1989.

The district governor who chaired the meeting said that the units strive to set up an agricultural cooperative society to support the agricultural sector in the Naour district and to set up a dairy processing plant. Contacts over these projects have been made with the ministries of Industry and Trade, and Agriculture, the district governor said.

He said that the units have submitted a request to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation to help local women in crafts that would help improve the living standards of their families.



Masa'adeh receives Ibrahim

AMMAN (Petra) — A number of security matters of concern to the Arab World and the implementation of resolutions taken by the Arab Interior Ministers' Council were discussed here Tuesday by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Salim Masaadeh and Akram Nashaat Ibrahim, who arrived here Monday evening to attend a three-day meeting by the heads of anti-narcotics bureaus in the Arab World.

role in cooperation among Arab states in security affairs and reviewed the council's activities during 1989.

Masa'adeh and Ibrahim also discussed the three-day meeting's agenda; and the interior minister expressed hope that the meeting will yield fruitful results to contribute towards further inter-Arab cooperation.

Ibrahim later met at the Ministry of Interior with its secretary general Salem Qudah for a simi-

ilar discussion.

Delegates from 15 Arab countries are taking part in the three-day meeting which, according to Ibrahim, is designed to help Arab countries ensure more security and deal with the challenges posed to the Arab Nation by its enemies.

The meeting is being held here for the first time after the Arab League had decided that Amman should house the council's headquarters.

Majali: Drug menace threatens all nations

Arab anti-narcotic chiefs discuss drug trafficking

AMMAN (Petra) — Delegates from 15 Arab countries opened a meeting here Tuesday to discuss ways of combating drug trafficking, the adverse effects of narcotics on health and inter-Arab cooperation to stem drug addiction in the Arab World.

The opening session of the three-day meeting was addressed by Public Security Department PSD Director Abdul Hadi Al Majali who called for intensive inter-Arab and international cooperation in combating drug trafficking.

Drugs are among the most sinister problems that threaten mankind and the future generations in all countries of the world, and Arab states are no exception, Majali noted.

He said that although drug addiction is relatively at a low level in Arab countries, the danger cannot be far away in view of the fast transportation facilities and open trade among the country territories.

Referring to Jordan's endeavours to combat drug trafficking

and addiction, Majali said that his department has been intensifying its cooperation with organisations in Arab and other countries, and has introduced new measures in this concern.

The PSD has opened anti-narcotics branches in various provinces, and is employing police dogs, and police helicopters to track down smugglers and drug traffickers who infiltrate into Jordanian territory to peddle their illicit products.

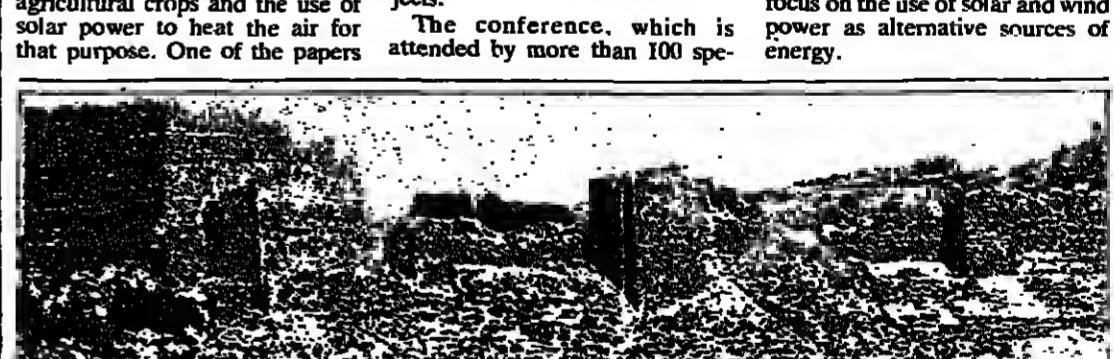
Ibrahim said that cooperation among Arab states in combatting drug trafficking and addiction has become more feasible now with the creation of the Arab Cooperation Council, the Maghreb Union and the Gulf Cooperation Council security plan which was endorsed by the council at its last meeting.

The PSD dealt in part with the employment of hot air to dry agricultural crops and the use of solar power to heat the air for that purpose. One of the papers

presented by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) dealing with photovoltaic systems to general electrical energy for the development of remote areas which are far from the electricity network and other conventional energy sources.

The participants later toured the RSS's experimental grounds and examined solar power projects.

The conference, which is attended by more than 100 spe-



Kerak castle (Petra photo)

More riches at Kerak castle

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in an international conference on energy systems which opened Monday discussed a total of 14 working papers on energy related matters and ways to employ energy in social and economic development areas during Tuesday's sessions.

The papers dealt in part with the employment of hot air to dry agricultural crops and the use of solar power to heat the air for that purpose. One of the papers

was presented by the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) dealing with photovoltaic systems to general electrical energy for

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Shamir's ploy

WHILE the election idea projected for the West Bank and Gaza Strip appears to be gaining currency at the superpower level and receiving conditional acceptance from the Palestinian side, it must be immediately distinguished from the Israeli election scheme which is nothing more than a rehash of the Camp David Accords. It is worth noting that while the U.S. is expressing guarded support to the election idea as such, it has not fully subscribed to the Shamir election formula. Likewise the Soviet Union has completely disassociated itself from the Israeli election proposal, describing it as dangerously flawed, woefully deficient and wantonly lacking in scope and direction. Meanwhile, the PLO has officially rejected the Shamir election plan and described it as ridiculous. And concurrently with its categorical rejection of the Shamir election ideas, the PLO maintained its conditional acceptance of the principle of conducting elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip including occupied Jerusalem, provided they are carried out under U.N. supervision and have the potential of granting the Palestinian people under occupation the full and complete opportunity to exercise unqualified self-determination including the opportunity to create their own separate state in the occupied territories if they so wish.

One would presume that all the forces genuinely working on the side of peace in the Middle East, including the superpowers, know only too well that for any elections to be meaningful in the West Bank and Gaza Strip they must be free and under neutral supervision. Equally valid is the proposition that the PLO cannot be excluded from the election process as Shamir appears to be aiming for. The PLO has been internationally accepted, as has long been the case in the Arab World, as the representative of the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with full authority and mandate to make lasting commitments on their behalf. To attempt at this late hour to jump over the PLO makes one wonder about the real intents and purposes of the Shamir plan. And when the exclusion of the PLO is considered in conjunction with the Israeli ipso facto rejection of the Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip and with the added Israeli condition that the projected election be conducted only when calm is restored to the occupied territories, one can be sure that the Shamir's model for elections is only a ploy to gain time and pull the rug from under the Palestinian intifada. Accordingly, unless international pressure especially superpower pressure can be applied on Israel in order to conduct fair and free elections in the territories in question with a view to give the Palestinians under occupation a real opportunity to exercise self-determination in all its dimensions, then there is no redeeming value in the election scheme. If such persuasion, when applied on Israel, fails to deliver the conditions that are fair and balanced for the election idea, then the international community, especially Washington and Moscow, are duty bound to bring back the international conference idea from the back burner.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i daily welcomed a visit here by Sultan Qaboos of Oman which starts Tuesday and said that it will further bolster links among Arab states. The paper said that the talks between Qaboos and King Hussein are expected to cover pan-Arab affairs, the Middle East question and bilateral relations in a brotherly atmosphere designed to boost solidarity among Arab brothers. Needless to say that the present moment is most opportune for strengthening Arab ties prior to the coming summit and in view of the current situation in Lebanon, the occupied Arab lands and in the face of common challenges, the paper noted. It said that the need now is to create a favourable atmosphere for the Arab leaders to decide on joint efforts and steps that would further strengthen Arab stands. The paper said that Qaboos and King Hussein working together with their Arab brothers have succeeded and will succeed this time once again in boosting the Arab image and cementing Arab ties at all levels.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily comments on a government decision reached with the United Nations Development Programme under which the latter will assist Jordan develop its public administration system. Tawfiq Al Khalili says that no one knows yet whether the U.N. will provide help to Jordan free of charge or whether the treasury will be forced to foot the bill which is JD 700,000. The writer expresses his dissatisfaction with the decision because it provides for foreign specialists to come to Jordan and help the country reform its public administration system. The writer says that Jordan is bound with fully qualified people and experts who can introduce reform and improve public administration and he cites the work over the past few years conducted by the Royal Commission entrusted with overhauling the civil service system in Jordan. The writer says Jordan needs no technical help in this respect and the government ought to look for the right people for the job and to give them the proper facilities and freedom to work.

Al Dostour daily commented on the prime minister's statements to a delegation representing the Ma'an Governorate. The prime minister has urged the people of Ma'an, where the recent riots took place, to cooperate with the government and help carry on the process of development and construction, said the paper. It noted that this message is directed to all governorates whose cooperation with the government under the present circumstances is crucial. But Ma'an has a special responsibility being the base of the Great Arab Revolt in the Kingdom and the station where the late King Abdullah launched his war of liberation. The paper referred to the demands and the requests presented to the government at the meeting which concern improvements of health and educational services and employment of the Ma'an citizens in the local industrial projects. The paper said that these demands were on the mind of King Hussein when he directed the new government to take up its duties and that the government will no doubt strive to carry out the Royal directives.

Peronism wins — but can it work?

By Bernd Debusmann
Reuter

BUENOS AIRES — Argentines have chosen a charismatic populist, Carlos Menem, to lead them out of hyperinflation and bankruptcy under the banner of a political movement with a track record of disaster.

Presidential elections on Sunday resulted in a landslide victory for Menem, candidate of a party that was founded by Juan Peron in the 1940s and blended elements of Italian fascism with fervent nationalism in a system based on state domination.

Like the late Peron, Menem enjoys strong backing from labour unions, and in his victory speech he vowed to "put an end to this Argentina where those who do nothing live well while those who work every day of the year live badly."

The return of Peronism was hastened by widespread popular desperation in country where inflation now runs at an annualised 24,000 per cent, the national currency has lost 80 per cent of its value since February, shortages of consumer goods are common, and public services are floundering.

Argentina halted payments on its \$60 billion foreign debt a year ago.

Menem has promised to cure Argentina, once one of the world's richest countries and now the sick man of Latin America, with a "productive revolution."

He has said wage increases for workers are to fuel the locomotive that is to pull Argentina out of its economic morass.

In campaign speech after campaign speech, he said production and consumption would be boosted by easy credit.

Details of how this can be achieved have been left vague and his opponents, alluding to his campaign slogan for "follow me," portrayed him as a pied piper intending to lead the nation back to discredited Peronist policies of the past.

Juan Peron first took office in 1946 and started a spree of profligate spending that emptied the government's coffers, bulging with export earnings from wheat and meat. Then, the country was the world's eighth-biggest economy.

By 1955, when he was ousted in a military coup, the reserves were exhausted — and so was the pink government house from

national pension fund on which he drew to finance public spending and buy continued popularity.

At its height, Peron and his second wife Evita were venerated almost as saints by millions of poor Argentines.

Sent into exile by the military, Peron made a triumphant return in 1973 and took over the presidency again. The country soon degenerated into chaos and violence that his third wife, Isabel, who succeeded him on his death, was unable to halt.

She was deposed by the military in 1976, at the beginning of seven years of brutal military dictatorship which murdered thousands of Argentines.

Political analysts attributed part of Menem's success to "punishment votes" against President Raul Alfonsin, who restored democracy after the 1976-83 dictatorship but failed to halt a

50-year decline in living standards.

In the economic turmoil preceding the elections, Alfonsin's greatest achievement was almost forgotten — he will be the first elected president to hand over office to the elected president of another party in the 178-year history of Argentina.

Menem has said he would reshape the Peronism to adapt it to the requirements of the late 20th century. But his detractors insist his hands will be tied by the trade unions which backed him in internal party primary elections last year.

He beat Antonio Cafiero, leader of a reform movement inside the Peronist Party which wanted to soften its tendency towards paternalism and reduce the power of union bosses.

"Menem signifies the return to old Peronism," Argentine writer

Jacobo Timmerman wrote after the party primaries.

"Scandals with women, close ties with the Paraguayan dictator General Alfredo Stroessner, inability to formulate a national plan, confusion and contradiction in an electoral platform... participation of Nazi organisations in the innermost circle, collaboration with ex-terrorists of the left, a powerful influence of trade union mafias."

In a speech two days before the elections, Alfonsin said that the price Argentina had paid for its return to democracy was too high to be gamblized away by "fascist messiahs."

Diplomats said Menem's triumph underscored the enduring appeal of populists not only in Argentina but Latin America as a whole at a time when most of its countries face their worst economic problems in half of a century.

JORDAN PRESS COMMENTARIES

A matter of pride, honour

By Rakan Al Majali

The following column appeared in *Al Ra'i* Arabic daily Tuesday. The writer is the newspaper's editor-in-chief.

THE so-called Shamir plan, which has now become the Israeli government's official plan, contains certain implications, and obviously aims to achieve objectives only favourable to the Zionist enemy.

This plan is, in the first place an Israeli attempt to end the current political deadlock over the Middle East question and a means to help Israel confront the international community which holds a different view concerning the achievement of peace in this region. There is no doubt that Israel has come up with the Shamir plan to try to escape the mounting international pressure, and to show the world that it is adopting a positive stand, and holds its own views towards peace which, it claims, it is quite ready to achieve.

It is a well-known fact that the Western public opinion is specially "bewitched" by the word "elections" and is easily taken in by Israel's bragging about democracy, forgetting that Israeli "democracy" also has a racist and terrorist face.

It is quite certain that the Israeli plan aims at creating a certain psychological atmosphere, paving the way for practical steps to contain the intifada in the occupied Arab territories. It is also important for us to notice the similarity in form and content between Shamir's plan and Shultz's proposals with regarding a stage-by-stage solution. Both plans are based on the concept of "distributing roles" to different parties. All of which are based on the national position, and it followed that step by severing its legal links with the occupied West Bank, thus upsetting the Zionist enemy which has no alternative to dealing directly with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), the sole and legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Jordan does not seek any role, nor does it expect to be assigned any role whatsoever from any source in either of the two plans, or in the Camp David Accords, or in any other formula from any source.

Jordan, as His Majesty King Hussein reaffirmed during his recent visit to Washington, adopts a firm stand and, strongly believes that no solution can be reached outside the framework of the international peace conference in which all concerned parties should be allowed to participate. The King has also stressed that elections in the occupied Arab lands can only be conducted within the framework of an overall solution.

But the question of accepting or rejecting the elections idea is totally left for the Palestinian people and the PLO to decide.

In other words, the Shamir plan is not addressed to Jordan, and Israel should rather present its plan directly to the concerned party: the PLO, which has the right to accept or reject the idea.

This policy stems from Jordan's commitment to the pan-Arab conference which serves as the only road to peace.

Jordan realises now more than at any time in the past that it will be a target for enemy plans, simply in view of its own national and pan-Arab stands. The Jordanian people realise that their country's present difficulties stem from its determination to abort all conspiracies and to adhere to its national dignity and pan-Arab responsibilities in defence of the Arab Nation. The Jordanian people, under King Hussein, have offered a great deal of sacrifice, and are ready to offer more for the sake of defending their honour and existence, regardless of the price.

Life for Jordan is a feeling of pride and honour rather than a matter of gain or loss.

Baker outfoxed but undaunted after Moscow trip

By Carol Giacomo
Reuter

WASHINGTON — Secretary of State James Baker, a master at the public relations game, met his match last week when he was upstaged by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Baker, in office four months, is one of Washington's most successful politicians and is widely credited with putting George Bush in the White House.

But having moved from the national stage to the world stage, he is competing with a Soviet leader who repeatedly has proven his political acumen and his ability to throw the West and its leaders off guard.

"Gorbachev rolls Baker," trumpeted a headline in a major U.S. newspaper after the Kremlin chief surprised Baker on his first Moscow visit with proposals to reduce short-range nuclear forces (SNF) unilaterally in Europe and negotiate deep cuts in conventional forces.

That view may be exaggerated. But there is no question the Soviet leader once again showed he can dominate the East-West arms control debate at will.

Even President Bush's long-awaited speech on Friday outlining his administration's vision of U.S.-Soviet relations was dwarfed by Gorbachev's manoeuvre.

U.S. officials say they expected a new Gorbachev initiative, but one U.S. Soviet expert told Reuters this had been predicted to come when the Kremlin chief visits West Germany soon, not while Baker was his guest.

Although NATO agreed the SNF cut would affect only five per cent of the Soviet arsenal and was therefore militarily insignificant, the announcement heightened tensions within the alliance. It bolstered West Germany and others who say the Soviet threat is diminishing and NATO should abandon plans to modernise Lance short-range missiles and negotiate cuts overall in SNF.

Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Saturday followed up Gorbachev's promised demilitarisation gesture with the threat that Moscow may develop new missiles or half destroy old ones if NATO upgrades the Lance.

Against this background, a

SNF dispute.

U.S. officials say that given the circumstances, Baker handled the situation well.

He could have dismissed the SNF cut as militarily insignificant and berated Gorbachev for sinister motives, one official said.

Instead, he chose the more constructive option, highlighting the modest scope of the announced SNF cut, welcoming it and challenging Moscow to go further, the official said.

Baker allowed one flicker of pique to show through at a press conference at NATO headquarters in Brussels on Friday.

After admitting the SNF dispute with Bonn had not yet been resolved, despite a 45-minute meeting with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, Baker declared it would be a "disaster... if we let politics

get in the way."

This is partly why Baker and Bush in recent weeks have declared their intent to "test Gorbachev's new thinking," one such diverse matters as Central America and terrorism.

Nevertheless, U.S. officials acknowledge feeling some pressure from critics who fault the Bush administration for not developing initiatives that respond to what many perceive as Gorbachev's bold gestures.

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Ballet in the Harlem ghetto

By Stephanie de Moulvalon

NEW YORK — It's been 20 years since star ballet dancer Arthur Mitchell introduced New York's black ghetto of Harlem to classical dance. After rising through the ranks of the famed New York City Ballet, overcoming prejudice towards black dancers, Mitchell created his own school in Harlem, and his own ballet company.

The Harlem Ballet company is now playing to a full house in Washington, D.C., at the Kennedy Centre, as part of a special 20-year anniversary celebration tour including performances in major U.S. cities — Boston, Atlanta, New Orleans, New York, Cleveland, Cincinnati and Chicago — a long way from their first performance at a ghetto theatre near 125th Street in New York.

Over the years the company of 40 dancers has won international acclaim throughout the world.

Last year the Harlem Ballet company was the first American classical dance group to perform in the Soviet Union since the reactivation of cultural exchanges in 1985. In contrast to today's fame are memories of the ballet's first months in an obscure hangar of the blighted Harlem quarter. In going forward with the project

publicity-shy Mitchell was challenging himself, and the black community.

As a star dancer of the New York City Ballet run by George Balanchine, Mitchell had already demonstrated despite deep-rooted prejudice that being black was no barrier to becoming a classical dancer, but he wanted to go further. The murder of civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. in 1968 served as catalyst: Mitchell wanted to show the world that New York's black ghetto had cultural riches and many talented youth who had never been given a chance to express themselves artistically.

When success and fame came to the Harlem school, it did not in any way alter Mitchell's purpose, on the contrary, the dancer neglected his own career as a choreographer to focus on the school's operation. It's through the school that the ballet company finds new talents it can nurture until the youths are officially chosen as performers.

The school's artistic director Nancy Schaffenburg admits readily that it would make things easier for the school to move to the heart of Manhattan where other ballet schools are located, but those who suggest it are missing the point, she says. In any case, the school's location at 466

W. 152nd St. does not deter scores of students from New York's other boroughs to attend classes. Some come from the Bronx, a drug-infested neighbourhood separated from Manhattan by the East River, some from Brooklyn, and even Staten Island. This year the school also attracted 16 foreign students from countries including Haiti, England, Denmark, Belgium and South Africa.

With Mitchell often busy on tours with the company, the Harlem school is being run by administrator Janice Robinson Hamm. She points out that the school wants to be open to all, which means that enrollment fees are kept lower than at most ballet schools. But even at a cost of \$80 for six months of classes (one hour a week), many families in the neighbourhood could not afford to send their children. The school is providing financial aid to about 95 per cent of the students enrolled, Janice says. The best students receiving professional training just before they join the ballet company can receive aid from the federal government, while businesses and private foundations give scholarships to other students. Janice recalled the case of a Harlem teenager without a home who was accepted without any fee.

In the heart of New York's black ghetto a ballet school and company created by a former star of the New York City Ballet thrives, bringing some beauty and hope into the lives of neighbourhood kids.

Feeling good

After a few months, though, she was so disappointed because of her slow progress that she quit — only to come right back. Today she is given small parts in the ballets staged by the company. Dancing is a pleasure, but it's also hard work, as all students find out fast. They learn quite young that they must apply themselves with a lot of self-discipline and concentrate. "When I dance I feel good," Celina Cordoba, a 10-year-old student, comments.

According to Nancy, few schools have students as motivated as they are at the Harlem school. "Sometimes a teacher spends half of the time on discipline rather than dance," she says, "even with young professionals. But here people take the work very seriously." No doubt the atmosphere of comradeship between teachers and students helps each person to give his or her

best.

Students never seem shy with the teachers, even during the classes "when there is no time to be kind," Nancy says. Looking at a class of older students who are all hoping to be selected by Mitchell to join the ballet company, she explains that competition does not generate animosity.

On Thursday afternoon children 6 to 12 years old gather in the school's largest studio for an hour and a half of hard training, their eyes always following the teacher. In a corner of the room Odilia Campbell and her piano provide the music, as they have done since the early 1970s. Following the students' movements with almost as much attention as the teacher, she goes from an adaptation of "Midnight Blue," to parts of "West Side Story" and then the more classic "Bolero" by Ravel.

Most of the students here that Thursday are girls, all with their hair up in a strict bun and wearing black body suits and flesh-col-

oured tights. According to Janice, many male students are also enrolled, more than in the average dance school. The Harlem school has built such a reputation, she says, that it is running out of space to accommodate students.

Many teenagers hope that the school will be the key to a bright future with Mitchell's company, but other students are here just for fun, Janice says. Programmes for children and adults who see dance as a hobby are offered; for example on Saturday afternoon parents can attend one class while their children spend their extra energy in another.

The school also schedules special classes for children attending public schools in New York, and it sends teachers to schools in poor neighbourhoods where some families don't even have a home.

This type of community involvement also includes the school's students who organise performances in the public schools once a month. Raising young people's

consciousness about dance is also a task given to the ballet company: when it is on tour it presents special programmes at the local schools. It pioneered this type of social work by dance professionals and inspired other American ballet companies to reach out to young audiences.

Mitchell often explains to students how all dance forms are linked to classical ballet, which is a necessary base. His school applies the rigorous Russian technique of classical dance. If this art has changed over the centuries, it's partly because the physical characteristics of the dancers has evolved, Nancy explains. Today's dancers are stronger, they have longer muscles and they can be more athletic. The technique must have some flexibility to adapt to physical changes.

Although the Harlem Ballet company and school are proud of their classic tradition, they do offer lighter fare, like tap dancing, jazz dance and ethnic dancing as options. Those who want to

learn the art of making costumes, stagecraft or lighting will also be trained.

Its humble beginnings 20 years ago in the basement of a church did not prevent the Harlem Ballet to reach fame and entertain sophisticated audiences worldwide, but it is appreciated at home, also. In Harlem, people are proud of what goes on at the school and they seem very protective. The street is probably the safest in this derelict quarter where drugs have taken a heavy toll.

Down in the basement Zelda Wynn has been in charge of costumes since the early days. She says she is too old to go on tours with the company anymore, but she is happy to stay at the school and watch the students, when she is not busy creating costumes for yet another production. "They haven't changed much," she says with a smile, "except that they are getting better and better!" (World News Link).

Ivonne Labrador, 21, and Edward Jenkins, 23, well enough they will then join the internationally famous Harlem Ballet Company.

London phone numbers

a new thrill for snobs

By Ben Dobbins
The Associated Press

LONDON — London is about to dial into a new and divisive experience.

The capital is running out of telephone numbers, so from May Day 1990 it will be split in two, with separate area codes for the central and outlying areas.

In a country which still harbours a passion for carving the citizenry into classes, the split offers fresh potential for social one-upmanship.

Our will go the simple old 01 area code for London, to be replaced by 071 per subscribers within roughly 6.5 kilometres from Charing Cross, London's official centre point, and 081 for the rest.

It will also spell the end of London's pre-eminence in Britain's telephone pecking order. Stripped of its unique two-digit prefix, the capital will have to get in line behind Birmingham (021), Edinburgh (031), Glasgow (041), Liverpool (051) and Manchester (061).

Some Londoners may find it income to have to dial 10 digits to cross the divide, and snobs will probably have a field day.

"071 will be a superior number to have," declares Elsie Burch Donald, author of "Debrett's Etiquette and Modern Manners." "Clearly there is an advantage socially, culturally, economically to be living in central London."

Like New York, which had to be divided into 212 and 716 dialing codes, London is running out of telephone numbers, especially since the rise of the fax, which sends documents over telephone lines.

The new codes will double London's telephone capacity to 10 million. Without the change, it would have run out of numbers next year, swamped by a 25 per cent upsurge in demand in the last four years, much of it in the centre.

British Telecom, the national telecommunications giant, has given the public a full year to adapt, and is spending tens of millions of pounds on the switch-over, including £1 million (\$1.65 million) just to publicise it.

But it isn't offering financial compensation for letterheads, signs and addresses on delivery trucks that will have to be changed.

Sign writers, copywriters, printers, decorators, telephone engineers look to be in for a busy year. Telephone-triggered burglar alarms will have to be adjusted too.

Some subscribers have suggested running the split along the Thames River, which divides the city into north and south.

But British Telecom opted for rings, partly because "people's geography gets pretty hazy outside central London," said spokesman Andrew Emerson.

For the confused, British Telecom will provide a free recorded message to set them straight.

The 071 code will be stretched to include the docklands, some 10 kilometres from the centre of London, which is being transformed from a wasteland of empty wharves and rusting warehouses into a bustling telecommunications centre.

The new codes will carve through communities like Hammersmith in west London, where some residents may have to dial 10 digits to phone across the street.

Instant status symbol

Phone numbers used to be instant status symbols, when the first three digits were represented by letters.

Reporting the latest change, the conservative Daily Telegraph wrote: "Telephone subscribers in London who mourned the loss of such emotive and colourful exchange names as the poetic Byron and McCauley and the stately noble, Frobisher, empress and Gulliver may be further alarmed to hear that British Telecom is bopping to scrap the 01 dialing prefix for London."

The letters system was scrapped 22 years ago, but numerical prefixes remain a status symbol.

"Even now a number tells a tale," says Catherine Alabaster, an estate agent in upmarket Knightsbridge. "235 is Belgrave, 730 is Sloane. A lot of people don't know it but there are smart numbers. There are always these nuances..."

She says the latest change will make little difference to her wealthy clientele, who "will only know London as 071. They won't look at the other zone — it will almost be as if it doesn't exist. They're not interested in fringes. In fact, they won't cross the river."

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'Situation is grim and dim'

Sudan's woes exacerbate

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's economy is going from bad to worse amid inflation, debt and crippling war costs as Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi starts his fourth year in power, diplomats said.

"The economic situation is grim and dim," said a senior Western diplomat in Africa's largest country.

Inflation has doubled to about 80 per cent since Mahdi came to power in May 1986 and looks set to rise as the government borrows to finance budget deficits, Khartoum-based Western economists said.

The Sudanese pound has slumped from an official 2.5 to the dollar in 1986 to 4.5 and was trading on the black market this week at more than 20 to the dollar.

In October the government introduced a parallel official rate of 12.2 pounds to the dollar, aiming to lure remittances from Sudanese working abroad into the banking system.

But economists said 80 per cent of remittances, which amount to

\$1 million a day, are still handled by the black market. Dealers are thriving despite numerous arrests, including 30 last week under emergency laws.

Khartoum's estimated four million people wrestle with acute shortages of fuel, sugar and bread, also widely traded on the black market.

"Nothing is in short supply in Khartoum if you are prepared to pay a fortune," said a Western diplomat.

The armed forces need an estimated \$1 million a day to keep at bay the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA).

The six-year-old conflict prevents Sudan exploiting its only commercial oil find in the southern Nile region.

Finance Minister Omar Nour Al Dayem said last week the war was partly responsible for in-

creased government borrowing from the central bank.

Economists said borrowing, which in effect meant printing money, had reached three billion pounds (\$670 million) since the current fiscal year began July 1.

Nour Al Dayem said the government also needed to borrow to pay for wage rises agreed in December at a cost of two billion pounds (\$450 million).

The government had planned to finance these with price and tax rises, but backed down in the face of a nationwide strike and street protests early this year.

Sudan, with population of 25 million, has not fully serviced its foreign debt of nearly \$14 billion since the early 1980s.

"We are getting close to a situation like some Latin American countries," said the senior Western diplomat.

Several attempts by Mahdi to introduce economic reforms suggested by the International Monetary Fund have failed for political reasons.

Several major Western donors



Sadeq Al Mahdi

are considering limiting their assistance to Sudan to humanitarian aid, mostly to the famine-stricken population of the south, diplomats said.

The United Nations has said 100,000 people could starve to death this year unless food from international relief organisations continues to reach them.

Sudan's agricultural output, potentially one of the world's richest, was hit by floods and drought last year as well as war.

Several major Western donors

Iraq to resume crude oil exports from Al Bakr port next month

UMM QASR (Agencies) — Iraq has completed repair of its war-battered deep water terminal on the Gulf and will start oil exports from it next month. Transport and Communications Minister Mohammad Hamza said Monday.

The minister said two of the original four loading jetties at the terminal known as Al Bakr Port,

have been fully repaired and are operational. Exports will start June 1 with an immediate capacity of 800,000 barrels per day.

Work is still going on to repair undersea pipelines connecting Iraq's southern oil fields to the terminal in the northern Gulf, 50 kilometres southeast from Umm Qasr.

The deep-water terminal was

badly damaged by continuous Iranian missile bombardment and air raids during the Iraq-Iraq war that ended in a truce last August.

The minister said the jetties will receive tankers of more than 250,000 barrels capacity and its export capacity will reach the same of that before the war started in September 1980.

Restoration of the full pre-war export capacity of 1.6 million is expected to take at least four more months.

Iraq's Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi, told the Associated Press last month that resumption of oil exports from the terminals on the Gulf will not exceed Iraq's quota set by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) — 2.64 million barrels a day.

The weekly Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday that Iraq had also received four single-buoy mooring oil loading facilities that could be installed in Gulf waters fairly rapidly. The four would increase export capacity by over one million barrels per day, MEES said.

The Shatt Al Arab, Iraq's main outlet to the sea, is still clogged with war debris and with peace talks stalled it is unlikely to be cleared soon. Instead, Iraq has made tremendous effort during the last few months to re-open its southern ports on the Gulf and restore their pre-war capacity.

Ten new jetties have been built in the Umm Qasr port since the

ceasefire, while contracts have been signed with a local company to build 13 others in Khour Al Zubair terminal about 22 kilometres to the north.

Shipping officials said at least 18 wrecked ships were cleared from the port after the ceasefire.

They said the port has returned to its pre-war capacity of eight million tonnes of general cargo a year, but capacity will be increased to about 12 million tonnes a year when the new jetties are completed.

But the Ma'qal Port in Basra itself which used to handle about five million tonnes a year of general cargo will remain closed due to the Shatt dispute.

Shipping sources in the area said Iraq is working to dredge a waterway outlet on the Gulf through Shatt Al Basra which will link the port of Ma'qal to Khour Al Zubair.

Meanwhile, work is continuing to clear the parts of the Shatt Al Arab waterway around Basra of unexploded shells and wrecked ships.

The Iraqi Ports Authority said they have already lifted 16 vessels since the drive to clear the 26-kilometre stretch started last February.

Iraq is using local staff in clearing the parts of the Shatt inside its territory. Western diplomats said the work is slow because of lack of technical experience and the large number of unexploded shells.

Jordanian, Argentine officials discuss trade

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian-Argentine cooperation in trade and economic fields was discussed at a meeting here Tuesday between the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce President Mohammad Asfour and Mr. Fares Eid president of the Arab-Argentine Chamber of Commerce.

Nearly three million people in Argentina are of Arab origin contributing actively towards the development of the country's economic, political, social and cultural life, Eid said.

He said the newly elected Argentine President Carlos Menem is of Arab origin, whose

parents emigrated to Argentina from Syria. His brother Edward is member of the Argentine senate and five governors in different provinces and five members of the senate are also of Arab origin while 15 members of the Argentine lower house of parliament are of Arab origin, Eid noted.

Asfour said that a delegation representing the federation and the Ministry of Industry and Trade and Jordanian business men will represent Jordan at the exhibition to try to promote the sale of Jordanian products not only in Argentina but also in other countries of Latin America.

September exhibition.

Asfour, for his part, briefed Eid on the types of products which Jordan plans to exhibit in Buenos Aires with the hope of opening the way for trade between the two countries.

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ECONOMIC NEWS BRIEFS

Specialists discuss Arab trade

AMMAN (Petra) — A group of specialists from Jordan and seven other Arab countries gathered at the Amman-based headquarters of the Council of Arab Economic Unity (CAEU) to discuss different practical stages to enable Arab countries promote trade. Addressing the opening session was CEAU's Secretary-General Hassan Ibrahim who expressed hope that the specialists will find ways to encourage trade among Arab states and help CEAU to contribute towards that goal. Ibrahim called on Arab states to implement the provisions of the Arab economic unity which aim to bolster trade links among Arab states. Delegates attending the meeting include Jordan, the United Arab Emirates, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Kuwait, Libya and Egypt.

IWC warns of rising wheat prices

LONDON (R) — Higher world wheat prices and a cut in handouts from major grain producers may squeeze the finances of poor nations dependent on wheat imports next year, the International Wheat Council (IWC) has said. The report by the IWC said wheat prices are on the rise while shipments of food aid are declining. "Many countries could experience severe difficulties in meeting the cost of commercial wheat imports," the IWC said. "Given the fact that nearly three-quarters of all wheat is imported by developing countries, this gives rise to considerable concern," it added. The IWC said food aid shipments to poor countries are set to decline an estimated two million tonnes in the year which ends in June, from the record 9.5 million tonnes in 1987-1988. This is because of improved food supplies in some low-income African countries, but also because of rising costs of providing aid. Early indications are food aid shipments could fall even further in 1989-1990, it said, without giving a figure.

Iran, Pakistan sign energy deals

DUBAI (R) — Iran and Pakistan have signed a series of deals in the oil sector, Iranian sources in the Gulf said. Pakistani Science and Technology Minister Jahangir Badar, who is also in charge of petroleum, agreed the deals with Iran's Oil Minister Gholamreza Aqazadeh in Tehran, they said. They reported that Iran agreed to export 20,000 barrels of oil per day to Pakistan in exchange for textiles, aluminium, and other unspecified products. The deals also included construction of an oil refinery in Pakistan and joint oil drilling, the sources said. Aqazadeh would visit Pakistan in July to confirm details, they said.

Economist urges USSR to join FAO

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union, which refused to join the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) when it was founded 44

years ago, should now become a member to benefit from its expertise, a Soviet economist has said. The Soviet Union needed to take advantage of the FAO's know-how in agricultural management and technology. Mikhail Kobishianov, economist at the Institute of World Economics and International Relations, said: "The USSR's joining FAO would seem to be a necessity," he wrote in the latest edition of the weekly newspaper Moscow News. Introducing Kobishianov's article, Moscow News said that when the FAO was founded in 1945, Soviet delegates refused to sign the organisation's charter, saying imperialist powers intended to take key posts and use the FAO to their advantage. The Soviet Union has recently shown interest in joining several international economic organisations.

'Stop lecturing; clean environment'

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community's (EC's) environment chief has urged industrialised nations to stop lecturing the Third World about environmental protection and start doing something to ease the problem. "We will not improve the situation with sermons and wishful thinking," EC Commissioner Carlo Ripa Di Meana told reporters. "Consumer countries that have in the past financed deforestation cannot just... express perfectionist approaches. They have to be helpful in the field." A key group of developed nations earlier this month rejected a proposed fund to help Third World countries finance a world ban by the 2000 in industrial and household gases which are destroying the earth's protective ozone layer. Ripa Di Meana said he hoped the annual summit of industrialised countries in Paris on July 14 and a June meeting of EC leaders would take steps to transfer environment-friendly technology to developing countries and alleviate their debts.

W. German exports hit new record

WIESBADEN (R) — West Germany, Europe's largest economy, has reported record exports in March. The Federal Statistics Office said West Germany exported goods worth 55.15 billion marks (\$29.18 billion) in March, breaking the previous record set in December by 50 million marks (\$26.5 million). The government data showed the country's trade surplus in March rose to 12.8 billion marks (\$6.77 billion) from 11.4 billion (\$6 billion) in February. Last year France criticised these huge trade surpluses, saying the overshoot should be reinvested in European countries which imported most from West Germany. West Germany had a record trade surplus of 128 billion marks (\$68 billion) in 1988 and economists have forecast that this year it will rise to about 140 billion marks (\$74 billion).

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, May 16, 1989		
Central Bank official rates		
Buy	Sell	French franc
538.0	542.0	82.1 83.0
U.S. dollar		Japanese yen (for 100)
883.3	993.4	392.1 396.3
Pound Sterling		Dutch guilder
277.5	290.5	246.2 248.8
Deutschmark		Swedish crown
310.0	313.7	82.1 83.0
Swiss franc		Italian lira
		132.6 134.1
		Belgian franc (for 10)
		132.6 134.1

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.		
One Sterling		
1,6435/45		U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar		Canadian dollar
1,1870/80		Deutschmarks
1,9360/70		Dutch guilders
2,1820/30		Swiss francs
1,7325/35		Belgian francs
40,53/54		French francs
6,5430/80		Italian lire
1409/1410		Japanese yen
136,80/90		Swedish crowns
6,5450/5500		Norwegian crowns
6,9990/7,000		Danish crowns
7,5350/5400		U.S. dollars
One ounce of gold	374.45/374.85	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

By Reuters

SYDNEY — Prices slipped on a government threat to tighten monetary policy unless the economy slowed. The All Ordinaries index lost 10.7 to 1,555.1.

TOKYO — Shares closed just off their highs, helped by index-linked buying by investment trusts and some financial institutions. The Nikkei index surged 210.16 to 33,926.45.

HONG KONG — Prices fell on reports of fresh student demonstrations in Peking during the Sino-Soviet summit. The Hang Seng index fell 20.14 to 3,289.50.

SINGAPORE — The market ended mixed but the Straits Times industrial index closed at a post-crash high of 1,303.48, up 8.08 points.

BOMBAY — Share prices finished lower after a quiet start, with activity slowing down considerably. One broker said the market was directionless after market leader Tata Steel was shifted to spot delivery list from forward trading. Associated Cement fell 9.5 rupees to 330.5.

FRANKFURT — Shares fell in thin trading as the strong dollar fed persistent fears of an increase in domestic interest rates. The DAX index fell 8.09 to 1,339.75.

ZURICH — Prices retreated from a firm opening to close slightly lower. Volume was small, with many investors staying on the sidelines. The all-share Swiss index fell 1.4 to 1,012.

PARIS — Prices shed their opening gains when fears of higher European interest rates started to outweigh early optimism that the United States might soon lower its rates.

LONDON — Share prices were generally weaker in extremely dull afternoon business after Wall Street opened lower on profit-taking. At 1433 GMT the FTSE index was down 10.5 at 2,139.4.

NEW YORK — Moderate profit-taking in morning business eroded the strong gains of the past two days. The Dow was down nine at 2,455.

BIG SALE at SHARBAIN'S BOOKSHOP (Jabal Amman,

Delgado wins 2nd Spain tour

MADRID, Spain (AP) — Pedro Delgado of Spain raced to his second Tour of Spain victory Monday, 35 seconds ahead of chief rival Fabio Parra of Colombia.

Jean Heidericks of Belgium outsped Mathieu Hermans of the Netherlands and fellow Belgian Eddy Planckaert to win the last leg. The three riders covered the 177 kilometers (110 miles) from Palenzuela De Ercina to Madrid in four hours, 31 minutes and five seconds with an average speed of 39.176 kph.

But Heidericks' triumph paled to that of Delgado, winner of last year's Tour de France and the 1985 Spanish "Vuelta," who won the grueling 22-day race by crossing the finish line in the same time as the Belgian rider.

Delgado topped the overall standings, 35 seconds ahead of Parra and 3:09 ahead of Colombian Oscar Vargas, who won the mountain climbing championship.

Delgado will take home 2 million pesetas (\$17,400) in prize money.

Cheering crowds lined much of the route and thousands of fans lined on Delgado with shouts of "Perico, Perico" as he raced beneath the giant Roman aqueduct in his hometown of Segovia, four kilometers (2.5 miles) into the leg.



Globetrotters play Thursday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The action-filled Harlem Globetrotters will be arriving in Jordan Thursday as

they continue their Arab tour. Their first stop will be the Intercontinental hotel, where they will give a press conference in the Jerash room. The arrival of the superstar has been made possible by Aramec, who are organizing the event, and Royal Jordanian. An autograph session has been arranged for basketball lovers on the Bahama Terrace of the Intercontinental hotel between 4:00 and 4:30 p.m. Thursday.

The Globetrotters are famous the world over for their unique style of play which combines hilarious showmanship with the highest level of basketball skills.

"We have scouted the top ranked college teams from coast to coast to locate the cream of the crop," said head coach Charles Harrison. "This is an overpowering squad who really make things happen."

The Harlem Globetrotters will play an exhibition match at the Royal Sports City at 8 p.m. Thursday night.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN AND OMAR SHARIF © 1989 Tribune Media Services, Inc.

RUINED BY THE DOUBLE

North-South vulnerable. South deals

NORTH
♦ J 2
♥ A Q
♦ K 9 6 3
♣ 10 9 6 2

WEST
♦ 10 9 7 5
♥ 9 8 5
♦ 8 4
♣ 10 9 5

EAST
♦ 8 7 6 3
♥ Void
♦ 10 7 6 2
♣ 9 8 5

SOUTH
♦ A K 10 6 4 3
♥ K 8 5 4 3
♦ Q 2
♣ Q

The bidding:
South: West: North: East:
1 ♦ Pass: 1 NT: Pass:
2 ♦ Pass: 2 NT: Pass:
3 ♦ Pass: 4 ♦ Pass:
Pass: Dbl: Pass: Pass:
Pass: Pass:
Opening lead: Two of ♦

Beware of dipping your hand to declarer. On this deal from a national team championship, a West player who had represented the U.S. in international competition could not restrain himself—and suffered the consequences.

North was perhaps a trifle aggressive in the auction. In view of the partial outfit, a preference to two spades at his second turn might have been preferable, and certainly a pass of three spades would not have in-

voked anyone's ire. However, there was nothing wrong with the final contract—only the 5-0 trump split made it hazardous. Since West had no real expectation of beating four spades more than one trick, why he would double for a measly extra 100 points is beyond us.

Declarer won the heart opening lead in dummy. Had he had no help from the defenders, he would more than likely have taken a spade finesse at this point. Warned by the double that trumps were not lying well, declarer cashed the table's remaining high heart, then led the king of diamonds.

West took his minor-suit aces and continued with a club, which declarer ruffed. After cashing the diamond queen, he played off the king and jack of hearts. East's failure to ruff confirmed declarer's card ruffing.

Both declarer and West were now down to nothing but five trumps each. A low spade toward the jack sealed West's fate. If he rose with the queen, declarer would be left with four winning trumps between his hand and dummy. But playing the seven proved no better. Dummy's jack won, and a trump, dueled to West, forced him to win and return a trump into declarer's A-K-10 tenace. So declarer lost only one trump trick and the minor-suit aces.

Opening lead: Two of ♦

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YOUR DAILY HOROSCOPE

by Thomas Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

When the Moon is void of course—as it is today—plans can be disrupted and general disorganization can torment even the best routine. Look for practical jokers who may be out in force.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) Study a personal problem thoroughly before acting. Your status in a relationship becomes an important question.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You run into people difficult to deal with. Some folks always seem to complain no matter how well you treat them.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You may get more done by being a hermit and working in a private space. You are unlikely to fit into someone else's format.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A "Denials The Menace mentality" may surround you. Favorable business reports show a slow but steady advance.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) A spirited discussion surrounds safety and financial guarantees. Search for insurance plans, but reserve your final opinion.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) There are feelings today that cannot be put into words but will be understood by another in a mystic way. Fold up your hunches.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Set up a workable system for your expectations. Reconstruct your budget. Open your mouth and you show your heart.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Keep creative juices surrounding a new project in a jar until Friday. Good timing brings matter to a successful conclusion.

TAURUS CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A "Denials The Menace mentality" may surround you. Favorable business reports show a slow but steady advance.

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SCORPIO CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) A "Denials The Menace mentality" may surround you. Favorable business reports show a slow but steady advance.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Do

not let others take liberties with you when you crave affection. Stick to your reliable flames, and don't start any new fires.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) Emphasize what you mean, loud and clear, when trying to explain yourself. Examine the situation from another, softer point of view.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) You run into people difficult to deal with. Some folks always seem to complain no matter how well you treat them.

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LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Do

British rugby unions allow players to tour S. Africa

New anti-apartheid row looms

LONDON (AP) — English players will be allowed to participate in South African rugby centennial celebrations in August but will be discouraged from going, rugby officials said Monday.

The decision, which follows similar moves in the last two weeks by rugby officials in Scotland and Wales, was denounced as "very irresponsible" by a leading anti-apartheid body.

This has magnified the problem.

"We will have to consider protest action," said Sam Ramsamy, chairman of the South African Non-Racial Olympic Committee. "We have to ensure that Britain loses influence in international sport."

Dudley Wood, secretary of the English Rugby Union, said at a news conference that any invit-

tions received for the South African tour will be passed on to the players.

Last summer, the rugby union refused to pass on invitations for English players to participate in a match in South Africa.

Wood said no invitations to the five celebratory games have yet been received, but said the rugby union "wishes to keep firmly to the government's own position over South Africa."

"This means that we would not

allow teams to visit South Africa

or to come from South Africa but, in common with many other

sports, we would not feel able to deny the right of an individual player to go," he said.

"If a player says he wants to go to South Africa to see for himself we do not feel, in a free society, that we have the right to say no, but we will not encourage him to go."

Ramsamy warned last week that an English decision to pass on the South African invitations could lead to international repercussions.

Such a move, he said, could harm Manchester's hopes of attracting the 1996 summer Olympic games to New Zealand.

"At this stage it is too early to say what action we will take because the tour does not yet exist," Ramsamy told the Associated Press. "All we are saying is we cannot rule out action at any level."

the Commonwealth games in Edinburgh, Scotland, to protest the British government's refusal to impose economic sanctions on South Africa.

After Monday's English Rugby Union announcement, Ramsamy said the Supreme Council for Sport in Africa would meet in July, "specifically on how to deal with this problem."

He said a boycott of the Commonwealth Games over the issue will depend on how many rugby players take up their invitations to South Africa.

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Greece's bid for Olympics intensifies

ATHENS (R) — Greece Monday opened a major three-part exhibition, ranging from 2,500-year-old antiquities to modern art, to back its bid for the 1996 Summer Olympics.

Melina Mercouri, the film star turned Socialist Culture Minister, said the exhibition showed Greece could offer "above all her cultural wealth and her soul" to the games.

The 1996 Olympics mark the 100th anniversary since Greece's ancient games were revived in Athens.

The exhibition cost 120 million drachmas (\$750,000) and covers aspects of the Olympics from antiquity to the present under the theme "the spirit and the body." It runs until January.

"We make no attempt to hide the fact that the exhibition is part of our bid to host the 'Golden Olympics,'" Mercouri said.

Feverish work was under way to prepare athletic facilities and the infrastructure to support the games but "Greece offers above all her cultural wealth and her soul. It is this the modern world so badly needs," Mercouri said.

Rinne finished a respectable 19th out of 36 starters in Saturday's race at Misano Adriatico, her 11th Grand Prix.

"Of course, my dream is to win a race and go on to be world champion one day. I believe it's possible for women and I've already shown I can be as good as the men."

Rinne's passion for speed began with amateur go-karting at the age of nine and has endured despite the injuries that come from hurling around a crowded track on two wheels at 140 kph.

She crashed out of her first Grand Prix in Sweden in 1987 and is undeterred by accidents that have broken both collar bones and caused groin and knee injuries.

"When I began 125 CC racing in Finland I was the only girl. Now there are two others," she said.

Rinne could even face female competition in her own class at

Rinne said, "and as long as I'm good and can get results this will be important to me."

Rinne won her first two world championship points with 14th place in last year's French Grand Prix and earned her first point this season when she rode her Honda to 15th place in the Spanish Grand Prix two weeks ago.

She currently races for an Italian team and says she may eventually try to compete on the heavier and more powerful 250CC and 500CC bikes if she does well at 125CC.

She also believes she may help attract more women to one of sport's most solidly male preserves.

"When I began 125 CC racing in Finland I was the only girl. Now there are two others," she said.

Rinne could even face female competition in her own class at

world championship level next season.

Ulfine Kummer, a West German who combines motorcycling with a job as a dental technician, was contesting her third 80CC Grand Prix at Misano Adriatico and hopes to progress to 125CC racing.

"My objective is to become a professional rider. I hope to find enough sponsors to buy a 125 CC bike and compete in the world championship next year," Kummer said.

Rinne competes in the winter in motorcross events and Finnish ice speedway and has the support of her parents to continue motorcycling at top level.

"My father used to be keen on amateur motor racing and that's maybe where I get my interest from," Rinne said.

Motorbike queen speeds ahead

MISANO ADRIATICO, Italy (R) — Kitted out in yellow leather and white crash helmet, nothing distinguishes Taru Rinne from the men in the fast and dangerous world of Grand Prix motorcycle racing.

"Of course, my dream is to win a race and go on to be world champion one day. I believe it's possible for women and I've already shown I can be as good as the men."

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Peanuts





American marines walk by a C-130 transport plane after arriving at Howard airbase in Panama as part of the beefing up that U.S.

President George Bush ordered in the wake of last week's controversial elections in Panama

Panama opposition pins hopes on military to oust Noriega

PANAMA CITY (AP) — An opposition leader says he hopes the Panamanian military could help solve the political crisis triggered by a nullified presidential election and violence related to the balloting.

"I believe the independence of a growing number of military will be a contribution to the solution," said Ricardo Arias Calderon, opposition candidate for first vice president in the May 7 election.

Many in the opposition have advocated the overthrow and/or departure of General Manuel Antonio Noriega, the country's de facto leader and chief of Panama's defence forces.

"We have allies within the military, people who want a change. I personally do not view the military as enemies," Arias Calderon said Monday.

The government stopped the vote count on May 10 and nullified the election, claiming a 2-1 edge for its candidate, Carlos Duque, hand-picked by Noriega.

But figures from opposition poll watchers gave opposition presidential candidate Guillermo Endara and his two vice presidential candidates, Arias Calderon and Guillermo Ford, an edge of about 3-1.

Asked about the link between

the Dignity Battalion and Noriega, Davis replied: "Well, they're his men... the Dignity Battalions are under his control."

Ford told journalists in Panama: "There's no doubt in my mind that they really tried to shoot me." But he said he had not received information indicating any one person ordered it done.

Meanwhile, the opposition has called for a one-day general strike for Wednesday to protest the voiding of the election. In an apparent attempt to derail it, the government announced that 14,000 public employees would be paid that day. Normally, it would have been Monday.

Davis said attacks by pipe-wielding thugs at a rally Wednesday were aimed at Ford, the candidate for second vice president. "The attack was meant to kill him," Davis said before flying to Washington.

He called the attack "a deliberate, Noriega-directed attempt" and said, "There is clear evidence Noriega's goons did it."

On arrival near Washington, Davis told reporters a thug belonging to a so-called "Dignity Battalion" leaned into Ford's car at the rally and "fired away" with a pistol.

One of Ford's bodyguards was slain.

Asked about the link between

Over the weekend the United States flew an additional 1,861 troops to the area of the Panama Canal, where some 11,000 U.S. soldiers are stationed along the strategic waterway linking the Pacific with the Atlantic Ocean.

Davis said he hoped a special meeting of the Organisation of American States, OAS set for Wednesday in Washington, would insist the results of the elections be honoured.

Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez offered Noriega asylum in his country and dismissed the possibility of any military action to oust Noriega.

"Gen. Noriega has not asked us for asylum, but if that is the solution for Panama, then Venezuela will open its doors," Perez said in Caracas.

In Asuncion, Paraguay, six Latin American foreign ministers discussed the situation in Panama and said they agreed Monday that non-intervention was the best policy.

Paraguay was one of the topics raised during meetings of foreign ministers from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela attending the inauguration of Paraguayan President Andres Rodriguez.

20,000 win U.S. 'visa lottery'

MERRIFIELD, Virginia (AP) — An unmarried Pakistani man, an Iranian mother living in West Germany and a bachelor from Kuwait were announced Monday as among the 20,000 winners of the State Department's first "visa lottery" granting random entry into the United States.

The lucky winners were chosen by computer from among 3.2 million foreign applicants for U.S. immigrant visas last March.

Opening the first envelope selected at random from files cabinets stored in a Washington suburb, Congressman Howard L. Berman said the winner was a 36-year-old man without wife or children from the Pakistani village of Khazana. The Pakistani embassy said there are two villages named Khazana, both in the northwest frontier province near the Afghanistan border.

The second envelope opened by Berman yielded the application form of a 45-year-old woman from Iran, now living in West Germany with her only child. The third winner was identified as a single, 27-year-old Kuwaiti man.

The winners' names will be kept secret until they are officially notified by the nearest U.S. diplomatic post in their home countries. The process could take several months, officials said.

"If they haven't heard by October, they should know they haven't been selected," said Frances Jones of the State Department's Consular Affairs Office.

Visas for the 20,000 winners will be effective over the next two years, 10,000 for entry in the fiscal year beginning next Oct. 1 and the remaining 10,000 in fiscal 1991, which starts Oct. 1, 1990.

Notice of the visa lottery, which was relayed to citizens of 162 foreign countries by radio, television, newspaper and even messengers riding outrigger canoes, touched off near-riots at some U.S. embassies and consulates around the world, from Senegal to Sicily and Morocco to Malaysia.

In Cairo, the embassy was forced to shut down and police were summoned to handle a crowd of 2,000 people seeking visa information. The embassy in Dacca, Bangladesh, reported that everyone from university professors to rickshaw drivers inquired about applying. Officials in Casablanca, Morocco, distributed 5,000 information sheets in three days.

Berman was a sponsor of legislation that created the visa lottery last fall, said the overwhelming response during the month-long application period in March.

Because Follini has been deprived of all external sensory cues and is living in permanent artificial light, she is living a 34-hour "day."

She is awake for as long as 24 hours at a time and asleep for 10, scientific observers said. As a result she has lost track of time, believing the date to be several weeks behind the calendar.

For instance when asked by

computer in early March to guess the date, she thought it to be early February.

U.S. space officials are monitoring the experiment, hoping to gain insights that will help space travellers cope on long missions.

Since she entered the 63 metres

long cave she has not spoken to another person. On May 4 she set

a new women's record for the

most time in a cave without outside contact.

Her only contact with others

has been through a computer link

to the surface where a

team headed by sociologist Maurizio Montalbini has maintained a round-the-clock vigil in a research trailer.

Looking for creative ways to

pass the time, Follini, who has a

background in interior decorat-

ing, has fashioned various items

out of paper, among them a

complete chess set.

"She was playing against her-

self and she complained because

she was always losing," said Rita

Fraschini, translator for a re-

search team studying the effects

of isolation on humans.

She has a guitar and 400 books

and has been practising Judo to

stay in shape.

In the initial weeks of her

isolation, Follini seemed mildly

depressed, Fraschini said.

More recently her mood and

concentration have improved. Just

last week, she posed for the

cameras wearing a top hat and

holding a cane she had made from

construction paper.

Follini, who has already sur-

passed the 111-day women's re-

cord for isolation, will emerge

from underground May 23.

Seoul slams Washington for 'meddling' in its affairs

SEOUL (AP) — South Korea warned Washington Tuesday not to comment on its internal affairs and said remarks by a U.S. official on the mysterious death of a radical student could harm relations.

The warning came as the Seoul government put riot police on nationwide alert Tuesday to prepare for possible protests this week over the student death and the ninth anniversary of a 1980 anti-government uprising in which scores of people were killed or injured.

About 300 radical students calling for the overthrow of President

Rob Rae-Won battled riot police with firebombs and rocks at Seoul

Taekwondo University in Seoul.

Troopers with interlocked shields

blocked the school's main gate to stop students from marching into the streets.

A Foreign Ministry official, who declined to be named in keeping with official practice, said a U.S. State Department official

commented on the death of radical student Lee Chol-Kyu were unacceptable and incorrect.

"Unnecessary (American) comment on internal matters, particularly on a situation in which it does not know the truth, would not be of help to the U.S.-Korea alliance or friendly relations," the official said.

The warning came as the Seoul government put riot police on nationwide alert Tuesday to prepare for possible protests this week over the student death and the ninth anniversary of a 1980 anti-government uprising in which scores of people were killed or injured.

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